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Letter dated 13 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Peter **Chkheidze**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 13 November 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Georgia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Statement of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Georgia

According to the information provided by a number of competent agencies on 8 and 9 November 2000, the Abkhaz "military forces" conducted training exercises in the restricted weapon zone, employing heavy armament (tanks, armoured combat vehicles, helicopters) and firing a number of missiles. The Abkhaz side impeded the international observers deployed in the conflict zone from surveying the restricted weapon zone and ignored their requests to meet with the "commanders of the units" participating in the exercises. In the course of the military manoeuvres, the air space of the territory was also closed.

The Abkhaz side deliberately violated commitments undertaken in the peace process, including the Agreement on a Ceasefire and Separation of Forces signed in Moscow on 14 May 1994 (S/1994/583, annex I and Corr.1) and the requirements of the Protocol of the meeting between the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in the Gali region on the stabilization of the situation in the security zone of 3 May 2000. Inaction on the part of the peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States in the given circumstances is also alarming.

The Georgian side condemns the aforesaid actions, which further stall the peace process, undermine exerted efforts of confidence-building between the parties and once again demonstrate the intentions of the Abkhaz side to complicate the situation in the conflict zone by means of provocation. The Georgian side again calls on the Abkhaz side to refrain from actions that undermine the results, even if minimal, achieved by the assistance of the international community in the process of conflict resolution. The Georgian side hopes the international community will intensify its efforts aimed at preventing such actions and achieving substantial progress in the peace process.

Tbilisi, 13 November 2000